

IRISH TRANSPORTATION RECORD OF CATHERINE BEHAN PER MARY ANNE 1841  
CRF-1840-B55  
LARCENY -- STEALING MONEY - SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS TRANSPORTATION

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W Connor [*crosswise and overstruck*]

To His Excellency Lord Viscount Ebrington K.G.P.

Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland etc. etc. etc.

The Memorial of **Catherine Behan** late of New Bridge in  
the County of Kildare : now a Convict in Naas Gaol.

Humbly Sheweth:

That Memorialist was convicted before Lord Chief Justice Doherty at the late Assizes in Attry on an indictment for stealing a large sum of money from Patrick Conlan of New Bridge and was sentenced by the Court to Seven Years Transportation.

That the time the said theft was committed and for many years previous, Memorialist was Servant Woman to said Patrick Conlan who upon his cross examination gave Memorialist an excellent character and could not but acknowledge several instances of her tried fidelity and trustworthiness.

That the evidence adduced against Memorialist was merely circumstantial and could be rebutted in a great measure, but that Memorialist conscious of her innocence, and her friends being humble and ignorant people neither she nor they made the necessary efforts to have her properly defended on her trial.

That Memorialist far from imputing improper motives to any, yet solemnly attests her entire innocence either as principal or in any way accessory to the crime for which she has been sentenced: that she always endeavoured in her humble station to support a conscience free from self reproach: and that for the truth of this assertion she most humbly refers to the annotated testimonial of her character certified by the most respectable inhabitants of New Bridge and its vicinity.

Naas Gaol  
August 13<sup>th</sup> 1840

Memorialist therefore most humbly implores Your Excellency to commiserate her unhappy condition and to restore her to her humble rank in Society by Graciously extending to her the Royal Mercy in such mitigation of her sentence as to Your Excellency may seem meet.

And Memorialist will pray

her  
Catherine X Behan  
mark

WE, the undersigned Inhabitants of New Bridge and its Vicinity do Certify that we have known Catherine Behan the within Memorialist these many years, her character was exemplary for sobriety morality and honesty: we believe the statements in the within Memorial to be true, and WE beg most earnestly to recommend its prayer to his Excellency's gracious consideration.

Dated August 13<sup>th</sup> 1840

EJ Odium      Oldconnall  
*illegible*      Innkeeper  
Geo Johnston      Innkeeper  
New Bridge

Thos Bentley      Lumville  
*illegible*  
*illegible*  
T Kavanagh P.P.

Michael Finlay *illegible*  
James *illegible*  
William ? Besberry

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Mount Kennedy House  
New Town Mount Kennedy  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 1840

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst transmitting the Memorial of Catherine Behan a prisoner in the Gaol of the County of Kildare under Sentence of Transportation requesting me to acquaint you with the particulars of the case for the Lord Lieutenant's information and whether in my opinion there are any mitigating circumstances which would consider the Prisoner a proper object of mercy.

Secondly I beg to state that the Prisoner who had been for many years in the service of the Prosecutor was charged with having removed a trunk from his house in the middle of the night & while all the family were asleep containing property to the amount of several hundred pounds.

The evidence was (as stated in this Memorial), entirely circumstantial, but was considered by the Jury to be so strong, that, notwithstanding the excellent character which the Prisoner received from the Prosecutors themselves the Jury found her Guilty and seeing no reason to be dissatisfied with the verdict, did not feel that I could for a Larceny to such an amount where there was no restoration of any portion of the property, and where there was such a breach of trust to recommend a lighter sentence than Transportation for Seven years.

I am Sir

your faithful and Ob<sup>d</sup> Ser<sup>v</sup>.  
John Doherty

NM Macdonald Esq<sup>r</sup>  
etc. etc. etc.

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W Connor [*crosswise and overstruck*]

To His Excellency The Right Honorable Hugh Viscount Ebrington Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland etc. etc. etc.

The Memorial of **Catherine Beahan** now a prisoner in Her Majesty's Gaol at Naas, under sentence of Transportation

Most Humbly Sheweth

That your Memorialist was tried before the right Honorable Chief Justice Doherty, at the Summer Assizes 1840 and was found Guilty of stealing money to a large amount from the dwelling of her Master and sentenced to be Transported for 7 years.

Your Memorialist therefore most humbly begs to throw herself before your Excellency Entreating your clemency and pity.

Your Memorialist is a young woman without a Father and having an aged Mother altogether depending on her for support and your Memorialist begs leave to state that she lived

with her Master & Mistress (Mr & Mrs Conlan) for the last 11 years during which time she maintained the highest character for Honesty and Integrity, which they verified on oath at her trial.

Your Memorialist having so far intruded on your Excellency, may it therefor gracious pleas[e] you to take her case into your humane consideration and Grant such Mitigation as to your Excellency may seem meet.

And Your Memorialist will  
as in Duty Bound  
Ever Pray  
Catherine Beahan

Naas Gaol  
September 25 1840

Kildare  
Catherine Beahan  
7 y<sup>rs</sup> transp<sup>n</sup> - Larceny  
[above 3 lines crosswise]

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[BACKSHEET]

B                      55                      1840  
**Catherine Behan**

Stealing Money 7 yrs T<sup>n</sup>

Please [faded]  
*Signature*

Rec'd 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 1840 Informed 19<sup>th</sup>  
Notes annexed 22<sup>nd</sup> HSC

The law must take its course

Sept 22/*initialled*

Judge ans<sup>d</sup> & Notes atd  
23 Sept 1840

His Excellency  
The Lord Liet.  
Dublin Castle  
[3 lines crosswise and overstruck]

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[2 IMAGES – PETITION OF EDWARD COOKE TRANSCRIBED IN  
DRAFT WHICH DOES NOT ATTACH TO CATHERINE BEHAN'S FILE]

To His Excellency etc.

The Humble Petition of **Edward Cooke** ...Trinity Street in the City of Dublin Counting House Keeper  
Sheweth: